

# Make the Right Call



Washington Officials Association

Volume 4 Issue 3

## Kill Hope and Keep Courage Alive

*Editor's note:* The following memo by NHL Director of Officiating Terry Gregson to the league's officials last season has been modified for all officials.

Officials often find themselves in a high-pressure environment and are constantly presented with unique situations, no matter the level. They work in an atmosphere that can be filled with emotion, speed, physicality often in a confined area and must make split-second decisions.

In order to perform at their best, officials need to be in an ideal performance state, which means being relaxed, calm, non-threatened and confident. Body and brain act differently when a person is happy and challenged versus angry and upset. The body and mind cannot perform at a peak level with any blockers. Being mentally tough and courageous are what enable us to effectively handle pressure, a consistent element in most any sporting environment.

Hope is a feeling of

expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen (or not happen). Courage is the ability or strength to do the right thing in a challenging situation.

Sports officials operate from a mind-set of being in charge so that when the impact call has to be made, it is not a stretch to call on our courage to make it. Courage is a big part of being an official, particularly in a unique situation or late in the game. However, the level of courage necessary is much easier to attain if you officiate as you go by calling it as you see it.

Being too tolerant or not reacting to fouls, penalties or violations puts an official in position of having to hope nothing similar happens for the remainder of a game. React to situations as they happen to avoid the "hope" mind-set. If you fall into that mind-set, immediately reset and get back on track. Do not let it slide.

If fouls, penalties or violations

are not nipped in the bud, they become things that you have to manage the rest of the game and can harm your ability to focus on your immediate task. That doesn't mean over-officiate by making everything an infraction. An official's quantity of calls doesn't equate to courage, but his or her quality of calls does.

Remain in charge with proper utilization of people and situational management skills. To be a top official, employ the following mind-set:

- Stay calm, relaxed and poised under pressure, giving a relaxed but strong presence.
- Be comfortable in your role.
- Have passion and intensity.
- Desire to make the big call.
- Show confidence.

Always officiate from a position where you are drawing on courage and not hope.

(This article can be found in, Referee magazine, October 2012.)

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## Winter Clinics and Tests - Update

Unfortunately, the release date for the winter clinics and tests has been delayed. With a change in process, we are still trying to figure out the best way to go about developing the sport-specific clinics. The lessons learned this year will help in determining how the

clinics are developed in the future, so we are thankful that the membership has been patient with this transition. This has been a tough transition, especially for the team that is dedicated to providing a quality product to the membership.

An email will be sent to the WOA contacts as soon as the clinics and tests are available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as the WOA works towards a positive resolution to this issue.

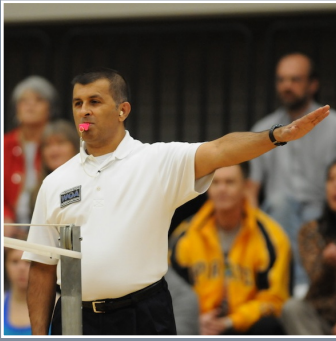
### Special Points of Interest:

- Being mentally tough and courageous are what enable us to effectively handle pressure.
- Courage is the ability or strength to do the right thing in a challenging situation.
- Courage is a big art of being an official, particularly in a unique situation or late in the game.
- An official's quantity of calls doesn't equate to courage, but his or her quality of calls does.
- Remain in charge with proper utilization of people and situational management skills.
- Always officiate from a position where you are drawing on courage.

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## WOA Golf Tournament Impacts Student Education



Riaz Kanji, Seattle

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey



### Aflac is Landing at WOA

The WOA is working with Aflac to make benefits available to members, effective immediately. Our Aflac representative, Steve Pohlman, will be traveling the state to find out which members are interested. You will be able to apply on the spot for accident, cancer, or hospital indemnity limited benefit insurance policies for you and your family. Policies will be available to association members at payroll rates.

If you have any questions, or are interested in applying before Steve gets to your part of the state, please give him a call at 206.310.9981.



Steve Hauser, Pacific Northwest

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

In 2008, the WOA scholarship program was created to help support the graduating sons and daughters of WOA officials who planned to attend college. Funding would be generated by sponsorship of the annual WOA golf tournament which is held at the Apple Tree Golf Resort in Yakima. From meager beginnings, the fund has now been able to award scholarships for the past four years.

The first student selected to receive the scholarship award in 2009 was Amanda Oster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Oster, who is a wrestling official from Pacific Northwest Wrestling. Amanda planned to attend Eastern Washington University.

The next student selected was Virginia Wilson in 2010 and she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Wilson. Jay is a football official out of the Snohomish County Football Association and Virginia planned to attend Western Washington University.

The third student selected was Maggee Cochran in 2011 and she is the daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. Terry Cochran, who is a wrestling official from Whitman County Wrestling. Maggee planned to attend Washington State University.

The 2012 student recipient of the WOA Scholarship is Megan Davis and she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Davis. Kevin is a wrestling official from Inland Empire Wrestling. Megan planned to attend the University of Oregon.

After the 2012 WOA/ArbiterSports Summer Golf Classic, a scholarship line item was created within WOA which creates an endowed account for the future. There is currently over \$3000 in the account as a result of increased golf sponsorships from associations and boards, individual donors, business donors and golfers.

Anyone interested in applying for the WOA scholarship is encouraged to go to the WOA website:

<http://woa-officials.com>

We realize there are many worthwhile causes that all of us are asked to contribute to each year. The WOA

Scholarship is one of the few that has been set up specifically to help the children of officials. With increased support, we will be able to help even more children of our own officials further their education.

This is where each of you can help. If your group is not already participating as a hole sponsor in the WOA golf tournament, please encourage your local association or board to sponsor a hole during the 2013 golf tournament next summer. If you know a business entity that might be interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, please encourage them to contact one of the members of the golf committee. As always, individual contributions or contributions from associations and boards are greatly appreciated. Thanks for your continued support of WOA officials!

Your Golf Committee,

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## When Technology Meets Officiating

by Jeff Mattson

Besides black pants, the next greatest thing to hit the officiating world has been the video review tool Hudl ([www.hudl.com](http://www.hudl.com)).

Just a few years ago, officials would often hand a DVD to a coach in hopes of obtaining the game film for review. Eagerly they'd wait for weeks, but nothing ever returned. Now with the click of the mouse teams have the ability to exchange game film within hours following their game. Officials eager to improve their officiating mechanics and judgment can now watch their

performance oftentimes before they next step on the field. Just like coaches critique their players following a game in order to make improvements before the next game, officials now have that same opportunity. Hudl is revolutionizing the game for officials.

Imagine working a game on Friday, receiving the game film on Saturday morning, and by Tuesday's membership meeting clips are ready to be shown for training. Since the 2011 season the Pacific Northwest Football Officials

Association has used Hudl extensively as a training aid and has received over 150 varsity games. From games received, 10-20 plays are used in membership meetings to provide guidance to officials on play situations and judgment. Hudl provides the ability to telestrate plays like John Madden, add arrows, text and even voice-over. And schools are also beginning to embrace this new era of video exchange with officials as they recognize the benefit to both groups.

(Jeff Mattson is an official with Pacific Northwest Football and a member of the RTO - Football Committee)

## Football: Communication, Roughing, Loose Ball

### **Increased Communication**

Throughout the season, both Pacific Northwest and Snohomish County have been experimenting with the use of a wireless communication system developed by Vokkero. The system allows for increased communication within the crew. The feedback from the officials has been extremely positive. The WOA has agreed to use this system for the upcoming semifinals and finals.

### **Roughing the Kicker**

**Play:** Third and 20 for team A from its own five yardline. Quarterback A1 throws a backward pass to halfback A2, who gets off a quick kick. Is A2

entitled to the same protection as a conventional punter?

**Ruling:** Any player of team A may legally kick the ball and is eligible for protection assuming it is reasonably certain a kick will be made (9-4-5a). A quick kick is one example in which there is not reasonable certainty a kick will be made. As a result, team B is given more latitude than during conventional punting situations (9.4.5B).

### **Loose Ball**

**Play:** First and 10 from team A's 30 yardline. Quarterback A1 throws a backward pass to halfback A7. The ball bounces off A7's helmet, hits the ground at team A's 32 yardline and

rolls to a stop. Since the ball hit the ground beyond the line of scrimmage, is that an incomplete forward pass?

**Ruling:** That is a backward pass that turned into a muff. The ball remains live. NFHS rules 2-31-4, 2-31-5 and 2-31-6 provide the definitions of forward and backward passes. The initial direction of A1's pass was backward; the ball retains that status until it is either caught or recovered. By definition the ball was muffed. Either team A or team B could recover and advance the ball.



(l to r) Mark Johnson, Whatcom-Skagit and Matt Meister, Evergreen

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

## Volleyball: State Tournaments, Training

### **2012 State Tournaments**

The 2012 WIAA State Tournaments will take place November 9 and 10 at the following locations:

1B, 2B, 1A: Yakima County Sun Dome, Yakima

2A: Pierce College and Lakes High School, Steilacoom

3A, 4A: St Martins College and Timberline High School, Lacey

### **WOA Training Program**

The WOA will be establishing a volleyball committee to review the different ways in which officials are being trained at the local level, in the hopes of developing a comprehensive plan that will assist in improving consistency throughout the state. The committee will review the different levels of training as it

pertains to first-year officials, varsity-level officials, as well as postseason officials. The goal of the committee will be to provide all boards with a training program that can be implemented beginning with the 2013-14 school year.

## Soccer: Restart, Keeper, Goalposts, State Tournaments

### **Score From a Restart**

**Play:** There are several restarts where the ball can go directly into the goal. What are they?

**Ruling:** There are three where you cannot score - throw-in, indirect free kick and dropped ball (9-2-3, 13-1-1, 15-1-1). A goal may not be scored from a dropped ball - either from the referee's hand into the net or directly from a player's first kick. Rarely seen, it is possible to score from a goalkick or a kickoff. Slightly more often seen are goals directly from a corner kick. With a high percentage chance of putting the ball in the net, penalty kicks may lead directly to a

goal. By a wide margin, most scores from a restart come from a direct free kick. There is one overriding provision - you can never score directly against yourself on a restart.

### **Keeper Gets Treatment**

**Play:** Keeper A1 is attended to by the medical staff at a stoppage. Must A1 leave the game?

**Ruling:** Yes (3-3-1c 2). That is the NFHS interpretation, and a 2011-12 rule change made it more specific.

### **Padded Goalposts**

**Play:** The referee sees the goalposts are not padded. Is padding on the goalposts

required?

**Ruling:** Under NFHS 1-4-1, they may be padded, if the padding meets certain specifications.

### **2012 Fall State Tournaments**

The 2012 WIAA Fall State Tournaments will take place November 16 and 17 at the following locations:

1B/2B Boys and Girls: Sunset Chev Stadium, Sumner

1A, 2A Girls: Shoreline Stadium, Shoreline

3A, 4A Girls: Sparks Stadium, Puyallup

## Writers Needed

The WOA is always looking for officials interested in writing articles for the monthly newsletter. If there is a topic you are interested in writing about, please send an email to the WOA with the potential topic.

If you are just interested in writing an article, regardless of the topic, please contact WOA to find out if there is a topic that has been submitted that is in need of an author.

The success of the monthly newsletter is due to the continued involvement of the membership.

Thank you for considering getting involved.



Mitch Marder, East King County

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

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Pat Terry, Chelan County  
Working the last football game of his Hall of  
Fame career (Class of 2012).

Photo Courtesy of Brian Addleman



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## NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER:

The first state tournament of the 2012-13 school year is less than a month away. Have you purchased your 2012-13 WIAA State Tournament Pass? If not, please contact your assigner. For those planning on attending, please remember that you are representing your local association/board, as well as the WOA. Your words and actions are being observed by all in attendance at these events, so please conduct yourself in a professional manner.

So far, the RTO Program has received a favorable response from the football officials and coaches throughout the state. We will continue to build the program and are hoping that by next year, the majority of coaches will exchange video with the WOA either via Hudl or by sending in a DVD of their game. One thing that has become very apparent is that video works great, as long as we are willing to accept what we see. When mistakes are made, we need to figure out why they were made and how we can fix it for future games. The flip side of this equation is that the numerous clips that we have watched have shown that the officials usually do a great job in getting the call correct. This is great reinforcement of the things we are doing right and demonstrates that our local associations are doing a great job of training and preparing officials.

Todd Stordahl  
WOA Commissioner

# [www.woa-officials.com](http://www.woa-officials.com)

## Perception Can Be Ugly, Fair or Not

Right or wrong, fair or unfair, legal or illegal, the reality of life and of officiating is that people form perceptions of you based on the way you look, the way you carry yourself and the message you convey in the process. Those are the facts of life that most successful people accept and learn to deal with. Others try to use those perceptions as excuses, crutches, reasons to rationalize why they're not getting ahead. Or, they just get angry.

No matter what your judgment and hustle are like, and no matter what you look like (overweight, underweight, old, young, bearded, glasses, etc.),

your appearance and demeanor send clear-cut messages to players, coaches and fans.

With so much officiating success determined by packaging, what package sells best? What's "the look" which is perceived as the "perfect" official?

No supervisor will ever describe a prototype for all officials, but most major college and pro officials seem to fit the same general mold. Most of those involved with officiating agree that "professional" and "athletic" are essential qualities in becoming a successful official.

That generally means a person who can run gracefully and move quickly, someone who stands tall and has a confident demeanor about him or her. Supervisors and assigners are always on the lookout for officials who have a presence and confident demeanor about them.

While perceptions people form when they first see an official can be fleeting, the bottom line for judging an official is whether he or she is in control of the situation. That's what counts, but not always. Fair or not.

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